

2023



HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hope Scope

¹⁵Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; ¹⁶and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

¹⁸And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. ¹⁹And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.
Matthew 11:15-19 (NRSV)

Jesus was frequently in trouble with the authorities. People in the civil rights effort in this country in the 1960s called that kind of trouble "good trouble." They said they got into "good trouble" with the police and other authorities as they worked for a system of laws and enforcement that was fair to all. Jesus, it seems, did not hesitate to get into "good trouble."

We don't often think of Jesus as one outside the law, but in the end, he was crucified as a criminal. And that image of Jesus is sometimes hard for us to reconcile with the Jesus we know of as kind and loving, and divine. And I think the helpful distinction is this: Jesus did things that were not wrong, but were against the law. It was the same with the civil rights leaders. What they did was not wrong but was in violation of the letter of the law. So where does that leave us? If we think a law or a set of laws is wrong, are we justified in breaking those laws? If so, then do we just get to decide what is right and what is wrong?

You can see here the difficulty of our Christian freedom. In Christ, we are always free to love and serve others—to find new ways to love God and neighbor—even if those ways violate the law. And here we see why it is so important for us to belong to a Christian community (like Hope Presbyterian Church). Here we do not suggest that each one goes off and does whatever he or she thinks is right. We learn, we pray, and we seek God's will for us as a community. And we do these things together. And this provides us with some direction and some accountability. We will need both direction and accountability if we are not going to be dictated to by laws that may be unjust.

Jesus thought the people who were making money in the temple by selling animals for sacrifice, or changing people's money so they could pay the temple tax in the correct denomination were wrong. He thought the whole practice was wrong. So when he upset the tables, he also upset the economic system that had grown up around the temple sacrifice system. What he did was, no doubt, illegal. And it upset all kinds of respectable people, who thought his conduct was shameful. But it wasn't wrong.

Friends, if you and I will pray for justice for all the world's people—if we will speak out for people others do not care much about—and if we will work for justice for them—we might have to become accustomed to turning over some tables from time to time. And some well-respected and maybe powerful people will think we are acting shamefully, and we will be in trouble. Sometimes faithful Christians find themselves in trouble. But if they are doing it right—if we are doing it right—it will be good trouble.

Blessings, Brian Jones

At its August 7th meeting, the Session:

- *Approved removing Hope Church from the Vital Congregations Revitalization Initiative.
- *Was informed the church will receive funds from a former member's estate.
- *Approved Christian Education teachers for 2023-2024.
- *Approved using the Presbyterian curriculum Growing in Grace & Gratitude for WOW and Feasting on the Word or Simple Sundays for youth in TAG for the 2023-2024 school year.
- *Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Jerry Bents as Treasurer effective January 31, 2024.



The following volunteered to serve Communion on Sunday, September 3, at the 8:30 a.m. service: Allie Johnson and Dee Schurman and the following at the 10:00 a.m. service: Steve Barney, Nancy Birkeland, Deb Ficek and Bob Sampson. The following volunteered to serve Communion on Sunday, October 1, at the 10:00 a.m. service: Steve Barney, Deb Ficek, Greg Mulder, Wally Titus and Liz Windingstad.

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FINANCE REPORT

		Year to Date	Year to Date
	July	07/31/2023	Monthly Average
Income	\$28,440.37	\$149,727.80	\$21,389.69
Expenses	\$21,640.72	\$170,189.34	\$24,312.76
Net Profit (Loss)	\$6,799.65	(\$20,461.54)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$24,895.98
Per Capita Assessment for 2023			\$8,494.08
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 7/31/2023			\$2,978.66

Jerry Bents, Treasurer

HOPE'S HAPPENINGS!

JEWELRY DONATIONS NEEDED

The Accessory Sisters would like jewelry donations for the Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 14th. Please place them in the blue tote by the library.

DONATIONS FOR OUR BLESSING BOX NEEDED

Bibles, Children's Bible story books and non-perishable shelf stable pantry items (no expired items please) are needed for the Blessing Box (outside, by the Christian Education Entrance sign). If the box is full, please place your items in the tote underneath the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall.

CLEARWATER WORK WEEKEND

Clearwater Work Weekend is September 15th, 16th & 17th. Please sign up on the sheet in the library if you are able to help out. We will be taking out the docks and beach equipment and doing other odd jobs.

ATWATER AREA HELP FOR SENIORS HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO

Tuesday, September 19, 9am—11:30am, Atwater Community Center. Flu shot clinic by Homeland Health—call 974-8737 to set up appointment time, bring insurance information. Medication disposal for unwanted prescription drugs by Atwater Police & Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Dept. Free chair massages and blood pressure checks; 26 booths with specialty health care and senior care service providers; Aging Eyes low vision equipment. Snacks, door prizes, light lunch provided.

Thank you to our church family at "Hope" for the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls during my procedures for my back and for Wayne with his scare with pneumonia. We are so blessed to be part of "Hope" Church.

Wayne & Darlene Thompson



Christian Education Youth and Families Report

Mission statement:

Through Christ, at Hope Presbyterian, we meet people where they are, to provide opportunities for faith formation and growth to help transform individuals to become who God created them to be.





August Family Fun Festival- The "Lost" Parables



RALLY DAY is SEPTEMBER 10th

1. WOW kids singing in church with the congregation. We will be singing a new song, "Walking in the Light of God".
 2. Presenting a Bible to Brooklyn Johnson
 3. Commissioning our Christian Education Leaders
 4. Congregational **POTLUCK** meal after church followed by outside games
- EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Christian Education Classes start September 13th

1. WOW 6:15 Meet in the Sanctuary. This is for students preschool – grade 6.
2. Confirmation class 6:30 - Students AND PARENTS meet with Pastor Brian in the Fireside Room for 15 minutes.
3. TAG 6:45 meet in the River of Hope Youth Center (After this week you will meet starting at 6:30) This is for students in grades 9-12.

WE NEED TAG LEADERS! Call Tyann to volunteer.

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Fridge Bridge

September 10th	<u>Rally Day</u>
September 13th	<u>First night of Christian Education classes</u>
WOW	6:15 Meet in sanctuary.
Confirmation	6:30 Students and parents meet with Pastor Brian in the Fireside room for 15 minutes.
TAG	6:45 Meet in River of Hope Youth Center
October 4th	<u>First family meal</u> at 5:45.

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones



July 2023 Updates

The need for food and financial assistance has continued to reach record numbers at The Link due to the increase in food and cost of living expenses. This has kept us extremely busy, serving as many as 5 families at a time in the food pantry! We are extremely grateful to our amazing volunteers that continue to show up and serve their neighbors in need- allowing staff to work behind the scenes to find ways to keep up with the growing need for help in our community.

Volunteer Opportunities: If you or someone you know would like to be a part of The Link's mission and volunteer at the **Community Revival Boutique and Thrift**, we are looking for extra help on-call and on a consistent basis (mostly Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Our store hours are 10-3 Wednesday-Friday and 10-2 Saturdays. Our current volunteers are amazing and have a great time together building friendships. If you'd like to join the fun, call Shawna at 320-347-1047 or Ashley at 320-354-5465.

In July, The Link was able to serve 6 families with common household needs with our **Household Exchange Program**. The Household Exchange program takes in donations such as smaller furniture, bedding, towels, kitchen utensils, pots and pans etc. to provide families when they are getting back on their feet.

The Food Pantry continues to see an increase in need, welcoming 23 new families and serving 128 households in July (including: 209 adults, 112 children and 32 seniors) and distributed a total of 6981 pounds of food.

The Wildcat Backpack Program Summer packs are available for families if they stop in at The Link and request them. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555 or Vicki Mickelson at NLS schools at 320-354-2252 ext. 2607.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 13 families in July by helping with transportation, medical bills, gas, utility bills and rental payments. This program also provided advocacy for 13 families, In-depth budgeting support for 12 families, networking for 10 families and provided 13 families with referrals for additional assistance to meet basic needs.

Tuesday's Table's schedule is as follows: 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more information). The 5th Tuesday in August will be hosted by Crossroads Community Church in Spicer.

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to those who have donated food and/or monetarily and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! With the increased need for food and in client outreach, we are asking for your continued support- financially and prayerfully.

Monthly Giving Opportunities:

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at www.youarethelink.org or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at ashley@youarethelink.org for more information.

Lay Readers:

September 3: 8:30 am Open
10:00 am Open

September 10:
10:00 am Sue Block

September 17:
10:00 am Open

September 24:
10:00 am Open

HPW Meeting

Tuesday, September 5th at
6:30 pm. Election of officers,
approval of missions,
2024 Calendar.

Devotions—Jo Holm

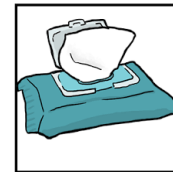
September CARE Pantry Challenge is.....

Baby Shampoo



Kid's Shampoo &
Conditioner

Hair Detangler
Spray &
Baby Wipes



Coffee Servers

September 3rd Nancy Birkeland & Mary O'Malley

September 10th Dee & Bill Schurman

September 17th Robin & Greg Mulder

September 24th Eileen & Dave Helmstetter, Greg Swenson



**Members with Health Concerns:**

Barb Morris, John Williamson, Mark Radabaugh, Bob Hinderks, Dick Lindahl

Family and Friends with Health Concerns:

Shelly Erickson	Greg Skinner (Virginia McKean's son-in-law)
Dale (Friend of the Hagemeyers)	Jordan Bast
Holly (Dee Schurman's sister)	Bob Dieken (Karen Bents' brother)
Pastor Jeff DeYoe	Johnny Lee Larson (Virginia McKean's great grandson)

Grieving:

Family of Mike (Friend of the Hagemeyers), Family of Craig Sietsema, Family of Bob Sietsema

Care Facilities:

Kathy Jansen (Bethesda North Pointe), David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe), Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks), Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe), Arlos Jones (GlenOaks Apts.), Barb Morris (Copperleaf-Willmar), Mary Lou Swart (PCU's at GlenOaks)

Other Concerns:

For those dealing with mental health issues and who struggle with addiction
For those deeply wounded by domestic violence, mass shootings
For those grieving the death and injury of a loved one due to violence and war
For those affected by natural disasters, COVID-19 pandemic
For those serving in the military

****Reminder to please use the prayer request cards on Sunday mornings. These are to be returned to an usher and they will be given to Pastor Brian to be included in our "Sharing of Joys and Concerns" in worship.**

September Deacons of the Month: Kathy Terpstra & Deb Steele

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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SPICER, MN 56288

PHONE: 320-796-2650

E-MAIL: hopepres@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://hopechurchspicer.org>

RADIO: KGLH 96.9 FM



2023

SUNDAYS

Office Hours

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Monday thru Thursday

(Last outdoor worship Sept. 3rd)

8:30 A.M. Outdoor worship
in the Hopewood Chapel

9:15 A.M. Coffee

10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

Also Facebook Live & on Radio 96.9 FM

Also on TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181

Sundays 2:30 pm, Tuesdays 11:30 am &
8:30 pm and Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm